

STEVE COHEN
9TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE
2268 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3265
FAX: (202) 225-5663

ODELL HORTON FEDERAL BUILDING
167 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 369
MEMPHIS, TN 38103

TELEPHONE: (901) 544-4131
FAX: (901) 544-4329

WWW.COHEN.HOUSE.GOV

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4209

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE (U.S.
HELSINKI COMMISSION)

June 6, 2023

David Connor, General Manager
Sterilization Services of Tennessee
2396 Florida Street
Memphis, TN 38109

Dear Mr. Connor,

I have been following with great interest the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Shelby County Health Department and Memphis Community Against Pollution meetings regarding toxic ethylene oxide (EtO) emissions from the Sterilization Services of Tennessee (SST) site and the EPA's proposed rule to curb EtO emissions. As the Congressman who represents the neighborhood where SST is located, I am concerned about the potential health impacts that EtO emissions may have on nearby residents and would appreciate learning about SST's plans to reduce EtO emissions.

With the knowledge that EtO is 60 times more hazardous than previously thought, the community near SST is rightfully anxious. Although the EPA is still accepting public comment on its proposed rule that would reduce EtO emissions by 80% by addressing fugitive and stack emissions, I hope that SST will take proactive action to reduce emissions to protect the health of its workforce and the neighboring community.

I recognize that improvements to the facility will require planning and financial investment. To better understand the complexities that SST faces with the proposed rule, I would appreciate some information about plans at your facilities.

- What is the extent and estimated cost of any recent improvements made or planned improvements to your sites (Memphis, Richmond, or Atlanta) to reduce or monitor EtO emissions? For example, have any upgrades been made to ventilation systems, window or door seals, or interior or exterior air quality monitors?
- What impact, if any, did these improvements have on operations while they were underway and was there any reduction in availability of sterilized medical equipment?
- If upgrades are planned but have not started, what challenges do you foresee?

I hope you will work with the Shelby County Health Department and the EPA to proactively reduce EtO emissions as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, we were unable to connect by telephone on June 5. Please send any information about SST's plans to reduce EtO emissions to my Senior Policy Advisor, Craig Dulniak at craig.dulniak@mail.house.gov. If you would like to set up a time to talk or meet with me, please coordinate through my Scheduler, Patti Marsh at patti.marsh@mail.house.gov or 901-544-4131.

I look forward to hearing from you.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Cohen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" and last name "Cohen" clearly distinguishable.

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress